

Weekly Column for December 14, 2006

Back in February, during my third State of the City Address, we announced the intent of the City to bring several federally funded programs in-house in an effort to enhance the productivity of each for the residents of Troy.

After a few bumps in the road, I am happy to sit here today and tell you that you will see visible results from Troy taking over these projects in the very near future.

The first of these plans in the Housing Investment Program, an initiative that aims to assist first-time homebuyers in procuring enough money for a down payment on a new home. Since August we have had several public hearings for the HIP program, which were intended to set potential applicants on the correct course towards purchasing a house. The average attendance at these meetings is more than 75.

This coming Friday, we will have a chance to celebrate the first success in this program. While I have to keep the details quiet until a Monday afternoon press conference, I am happy to announce that the first recipient of the HIP grant is purchasing a home in North Central. And we have many more grants we will be rewarding in the coming months.

Another move the City of Troy made was to take over the HOME program, which is intended to move low to moderate-income residents into their own homes and out of public housing and rental situations. This week we sent out RFP's to interested parties requesting a cost to build ten homes off of Project Road near Griswold Heights.

We intend to build ten houses on this stretch of land efficiently and believe each will be ready to live in by this time next year. This project will mean ten families will celebrate the holiday season in their own home for the very first time next year. It is an exciting venture, and it is one I know will be a great success. The bids on this project are due back in the second week of January, so stay tuned for the announcement of what comes next.

As the weather continues to be glorious, it does not seem possible that Christmas can only be 11 days away. But it is, and please remember to continue shopping in the City of Troy. Have a great weekend!

Harry J Tutunjian  
Mayor of Troy